

Employee Spotlight – June Timmons

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June Timmons is the Chief Applications Architect for the Washington State Digital Archives, and the leader of the digital magic team. But she will tell you that she is not some kind of super hero out there in Cheney, Washington. She wants it known that behind her is an amazing group of folks working hard to ensure that we continually provide access to as many records from the collections as we possibly can, all the while preserving them for the foreseeable future...and beyond!

Being a woman in IT has never held back June Timmons. "I certainly know I'm in the minority!" she laughs, before shifting the conversation to what really thrills her about her work. "I love the opportunity to work for a better cause than the next stock option. We're creating enduring value for future generations."



Timmons has over 25 years of experience in computer science and experience in all arenas of the IT world, from big tech corporations (yes, THAT big) to small startups and even the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA). But she isn't comfortable talking about herself or resting on her laurels. She admits that when she saw the position announcement for a job at the Digital Archives, she "didn't like history and didn't know what archives were." But she liked the idea of making a difference. She also wants to make it very clear that she is not an island, and wants more than anything to recognize her team.

She credits the amazing team that she leads for giving her the ability to make a difference. June learned from being in the military that you have to work together if you ever want to be successful. "We all pick up and help others where needed. No job is beneath any member of my team—we're like a well-oiled machine. No one ever says 'that's not MY job'."

Two things she never thought she'd ever be able to say about her life are 1) she'd have a job working with history, and 2) that she'd been in the military for ten years! But both things are now true and a huge part of her success. "The best part of the job," Timmons says, "is that it is like working at a big think tank. There is constantly new stuff, we are constantly exchanging ideas, solving problems. The work is never the same."

The worst part of the job? She pauses and tries to be diplomatic. "There is a lot of arrogance in the IT world. Not my staff, but I am always meeting government

officials who are not getting what they need from their IT staff. Sometimes they forget that it is all about people."

In her down time, when she's not leading the charge to save the digital world of the Washington State Archives, she can be found out snowmobiling in the back woods and "glamping". That's right—glamping. For those who haven't encountered that expression before, it means "glamorous camping," and pairs destinations with the intimacy of camping and the world of luxury travel. June looks for RV spots, places for wine tasting, even visiting the LeMay Car Museum—when she's visiting them, she's glamping.